

State Advisory Committee (SAC) for Children with Disabilities - Annual Retreat
NH Department Of Education
September 10, 2014
Plymouth State University
9:00am-2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Candace Cole-McCrea, Joan Holleran, Tom Grinley, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Heather Worthen, Catherine Meister, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Richard Cohen, Maureen Tracey, Bonnie Dunham, Daniel Ward, Lynne Clough, Jean Parsons, Karen Rosenberg, Janet Reed, Michelle Rosado, Mike Pinard, Joan Holleran, Audrey Burke, Heidi Cloutier, Sue Jenkins

Guests: Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education)

1. **Agenda Item I:** Welcome, Introductions, Overview of the Day, Nomination of Candidate for SAC Membership, Review the Statutory Role of SAC Approval of Minutes, Announcements, Recap of Last Year's Annual Report, Public Comment.
 - a. **Richard resigning, nominating Karen Rosenberg**
 - i. 2nd by Candace
 - ii. Karen accepted nomination
 - iii. Group – all in favor
 - b. **Review of SAC Responsibilities**
 - c. **Approval of minutes**
 - i. Should say Bonnie nominated as SAC Chair
 1. Motion to accept
 2. Candace
 3. 2nd Maureen
 4. All in favor (as revised)
 5. Anyone who wasn't here has abstained
 - d. **Announcements**
 - i. **September 25th at SERESC meeting regarding students who are struggling with reading (information on website)**
 - ii. **October – Parent involvement month – October 1st PIC having party**
 - iii. **Ruth Littlefield – looking for 2 volunteers from SAC**
 1. **Mary Ellen Pantazis, Heather Worthen & Susan Jenkins**
 - iv. **Announced Terry Stafford finished with SAC, introduced Stacey Welch as filling her position**
 - v. **Santina – Introduced new employee in the bureau: Lori N.**
 - vi. **Richard – Announced that the 'Disabilities Right Center' has a new name – 'Disability Right Center New Hampshire' – and a new location**
 - e. **Recap of last year – SAC Annual Report**

- i. **Mary Ellen** - More information on the Go Blue presentation. Importance on the month of April being Autism awareness month. Met with Commission to change the light bulbs at the state house on April 2nd to blue to show support (info in SAC report) – put this on the agenda for next month
- ii. Reports from sub-committees recommendations to look at failed implementations of IEPs and Post-Secondary resources and unmet needs of youth in their transitions (chart in SAC annual report page 16) & finances
- iii. **Joan** – deaf and hard of hearing issues, SAC to be aware of the guidelines with the support of the DOE for the education of those who are deaf. Thinks the document should be used for ALL students. Thinks SAC should make a recommendation to DOE to present this to districts as “best practice” – Stacey to send link about Deaf and Hard of Hearing Guidelines to SAC Members
- iv. Failed implementations of IEPs (**Sue**)
- v. **Richard** – Unmet Needs of Students with Disabilities, including Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities or Challenges, Incarcerated Students with Disabilities, and Students who are Subject to Restraint/Seclusion.
 1. Multi-tiered system of supports (page 14), schools should adopt PBIS. In May SAC voted that the commission take a lead role in this action. Have commissioner come to a meeting to hear her response.
- vi. Special Education Finance/Funding – page 17 and 18 **Mary Ellen** – spoke about CAT AID, how grants were allocated, stigma parents receive, out of district funding, discussed having a training on SPED Funding, a lot are unaware how the funding works, suggesting legislation to increase funding
- vii. **ICC subcommittee – Sue is the liaison** – spoke about two ICC priority issues: 1) coming up with a new plan to fund early intervention services that includes a family share of the cost, and 2) the development of a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that focuses on preschool education – the subject of Ruth Littlefield’s letter. Relative to a new system of funding for Part C/birth-to-three services, Santana highlighted that there is no family payment for IEP services for a school-aged child with an IEP. If a family share is implemented for Part C, the family cost would be based on family income, and parents would never pay the full cost of early intervention services. Sue explained that the entitlement to services under Part C is limited.
 1. Catherine Meister – interested to look at the research of the impact on those children who do not receive services what it’s going to cost us in the long run – wants more information
 2. Richard – importance of early intervention (thinks System of Payment needs to be liberal as possible if put into place), feels the governor will be very sensitive to the issue (ally)

f. Guest Speakers/SAC Members: Unmet Needs of Students with Disabilities

i. Daniel Ward:

1. "Unmet needs of Students", adoption of PBIS model, Agenda Item 7 (last minutes),
2. Proposed Strategic Plan for SAC (2015)
 - a. Children whose parents aren't around, absentee parents (military, incarcerated, foster care)
 - b. Identify and incorporate Tier II interventions and supports (PBIS) in order to address the unmet needs of students within the above targeted populations
 - c. Advise the DOE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children/students with disabilities
 - i. Disabilities: ADD, ADHD, Depression

ii. Candace Cole-McCrea:

1. Identify children that are vulnerable because of the above circumstances, the PBIS model enhances emotional issues and well-being (Tier II kids) as well as maximizing their social skills. PBIS would integrate families (parents who are not present because of the above reason)
2. Plan: addressing vulnerability with PBIS right away and not waiting or continuing to put it off – would be the first state in the nation to look at the model in this way.

iii. Catherine Meister:

1. Thinks SAC could focus on their "inner face", the communication of the DOE and Department of Health and Human Services – will allow for the needs of these targeted students to be met
2. Mandates require that the communication part needs to be figured out, has to be had. Taking time to develop this inner face.
3. January 2013 – Uninterrupted Education Act passed, FERPA passed
4. DHHS advises that this issue of better identifying these children should be brought to the commissioner and SAC should discuss more

BREAK

2. Agenda Item II: "State of the State" – Report/Update from the Bureau (Santina)

a. Update on Special Education

i. Data:

1. Since 2003 to total students in our state has declined (10 years)
2. Decrease in SPED population: could be due to overall student pop. Dropping, could be because of the implementation of PBIS, students

may not being identified correctly, students may be moving from IEPs to 504s

3. 29,011 students in NH (2013)
4. Number of students with Autism has increased, but numbers of students with other disabilities have gone down (says that IEP teams are becoming more educated on autism and how to identify those with autism)
5. 2013 Percentage of Children with Disabilities
 - a. National: 12.9%
 - b. New Hampshire: 14.6%
6. **RDA (Results Driven Accountability Initiative) – from OSEP:**
performance of students with IEPs in each state
 - a. Rates states on 50% compliance and 50% performance (before it was 100% compliance)
 - b. RDA uses the outcomes from the NAEP test in reading and mathematics
 - i. NAEP – every state is required to participate in the test, but not every school
 - c. RDA debating whether they want to look at Graduation Rates (if this happens it will take place next year)
 - d. **Compliance:** suspension rates, ethnicities, initial evaluations (are they timely), children who are going from Part C to Part B, look at transition, general supervision
7. **CAT Aid Memo:** posted to the DOE website
8. **Starting Budget Process:** amount of state money the bureau gets is “inamount” – could be a good place for SAC to speak about unmet needs
9. **House Bill 1128** – Charter Schools (funding)
10. **NHAIM**
 - a. Introduced Stacey as the over-seer, Mary & Stacey have reached out to districts to make them aware of the APH quota funds and the count
11. **SPED Monitoring Piece:**
 - a. **Written Prior Notice (WPN):** stakeholder group updated and clarified the rules/policies/procedures
12. **Focus Monitoring Ending:** contract has ended (June 30, 2015) then all of the SPED monitoring will be done in house at the DOE, Bureau of Special Education
13. **SEE-Change:** Sustainable Early Engagement for Change
 - a. Early Intervention: Indicator 17 – Ruth Littlefield (hopes to increase pre-school outcomes)

- b. Bureau identified that these children (birth through age 5) were not getting a lot of help
- c. NH was 1 of 2 states selected to participate (data driven, will be graded depending on increase/decrease of outcomes)

14. State Performance Report (SPP)/Annual Performance Reports (APR):

has changed

- a. Went from 20 indicators down to 17 (OSEP agreed some were redundant)
- b. Indicator 17 will be known as: SSIP

15. Medicaid to School Program

- a. One time parent consent (change)
- b. State is changing procedural safeguards

16. Safe Schools and Healthy Students State Planning Grant (SAMSA grant)

- a. DOE & DHHS working together on this grant, DOE is the lead
- b. Grant has 3 pilot sites – based on various factors that were present in those areas
- c. 3 year grant

17. Projects: First Responder and Aware (waiting for the grants to pass)

18. Fostering Connections – through DHHS directed towards children who are in foster care and are in public schools (Santina will represent from the DOE)

3. Lunch & Small Group Discussion (key issues in Special Education, impacting the education

4. Agenda Item IV: Understanding the Key Issues in Special Education (group discussion)

5. Agenda Item III: Identify and Select Priority Issues for the Year

a. TOPICS:

i. **Absent Parents** (incarcerated, foster parents, etc.)

1. Group motioned to combined more to this topic:

- a. **Mental Health in Schools** (addressing social/emotional needs of all youth, student supports personnel, connecting youth and families to other resources)

b. **PBIS**

ii. **Funding/Finances**

iii. **Closing the Achievement Gap**

iv. **Secondary Transition** (starting at 14, truly individualized & not cookie-cutter)

- 1. VR and meaningful career pathways
- 2. Availability of high quality vocational assessments
- 3. Closing the achievement gaps & not setting preconceived expectations for children with disabilities
 - a. Quality instruction and supports (including well-prepared, highly skilled paraprofessionals)
- 4. **Post-secondary outcomes** – include self-determination skills and meaningful community participation & independent living

5. Coordination between LEAs and Area Agencies, etc.

- v. **Interface between DHHS & DOE**
- vi. **Restraints/Seclusion**
- vii. **ESY**
- viii. **School Boards without a clue** (including about SPED responsibilities, laws & money) – also medical providers, Superintendents, legislators & others needing more of a clue, re: Special Education [but school boards need special focus, re: their obligation to CWD]
- ix. **Public Forums** (online or in person – what is working and what is not, etc.)
- x. **Mental Health in Schools**
- xi. **PBIS**
- xii. **Mechanism for complaint investigators to investigate systemic issues**
- xiii. **RTI, Special Education, 504 – What is what and for whom?**
 - 1. Addressing the need between Special and General Education (separation & trying to bridge the gap)

- b. Richard suggested to merge 1, 10, and 11 – whole group approves
- c. Group motioned to get rid of **Restraints/Seclusion & Interface Between DHHS & DOE**
- d. Motion to make **Public Forums** a smaller topic of discussion rather than a full year of discussion
- e. Group voted

i. Absent Parents – 17 votes

- ii. Finance/Funding – 7 votes
- iii. Closing the Achievement Gap – 1 vote

iv. Secondary Transition - 18 votes

- v. ESY – 1 vote

vi. Ensuring that School Boards & Other Key Stakeholders are Well-Informed – 9 votes

- vii. Mechanism for complaint investigators – 0 votes
- viii. RTI, Special Education & 504s – 5 votes

f. 3 Subcommittees will be:

- i. **Students with Disabilities with Absent Parents**
- ii. **Secondary Transition**
- iii. **Ensuring that School Boards & Other Key Stakeholders are Well-Informed**

6. **Agenda Item V: Old Business**

- a. Response about PBIS

7. **Agenda Item VI: No New Business/New Emerging Issues/Public Comments**

8. **Motion to adjourn**

- a. Janet
- b. Dick (2nd)

- c. All approve
- d. Next meeting - October 1, 2014